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JULY 31, 2012](#)

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AUGUST 27, 2012](#)



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

July 31, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

CALIFORNIA FILM COMMISSION'S MODEL FILM ORDINANCE AND BEST PRACTICES

On July 24, 2012, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, the Board directed this Office to revise the County's current film practices in accordance with the recently revised California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance, and review the Film Commission's suggested Best Practices for incorporation into the County's practices to the extent practicable, and bring the revisions back to the Board within 30 days for adoption. The Board also directed this Office to report back on the impacts on the film industry 2010 filming permit increases for the Fire Department.

As outlined below, we are recommending that the California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance and Best Practices be reviewed for adoption as a Board Policy, after confirming there are no conflicts between these documents and current County Code. The report on the impacts of the Fire Department's 2010 filming permit increases on the film industry will be provided under separate cover.

Background

As indicated in our March 7, 2011 memorandum to the Board, this Office has been holding semi-annual filming activity coordination meetings with the California Film Commission, film industry representatives, FilmL.A., Board offices, and County departments involved in filming activities. These meetings provide a forum for discussing filming-related issues in the County and ways to improve the collaboration between the film industry, the County, and our residents. More recently, this Office has also been working with the County's Commission on Local Governmental Services, the City of Carson, and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), to review the Commission's revised Model Film Ordinance and suggested Best Practices, and how to assist local cities in becoming more "film friendly."

At the June 14, 2012 semi-annual filming coordination meeting, this Office recommended that the Commission's revised Model Film Ordinance and suggested Best Practices be adopted as a Board Policy, after considering the following reasons:

- Existing County Code sections related to filming are addressed in 11 Titles and 16 Chapters, as many are tightly integrated with other non-filming-related ordinances. The Commission's Model Film Ordinance, in its current form, does not lend itself well to County Code's format, and removing, modifying, or relocating various Code sections may be problematic.

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Each Supervisor
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- The Model Film Ordinance and the suggested Best Practices may be further modified, as local municipalities begin to adopt the California Film Commission's language and suggest additional changes, resulting in situations where the Board may need to consider multiple County Code changes.
- Board Policy provides a more flexible and suitable vehicle for the Board to express its support for facilitating our interface with the filming community and encouraging retention of this critical industry.

Representatives from the California Film Commission, the film industry, FilmL.A., and County departments were very receptive to this approach. In addition, preliminary analysis indicates that the Model Film Ordinance and the suggested Best Practices are not in conflict with current County Code sections associated with filming. We believe this approach is consistent with the Board's direction of July 24, 2012, referenced above.

We anticipate presenting the Board Policy, incorporating as appropriate the Model Film Ordinance and Best Practices, to the Audit Committee within 45 days, after which the Policy will be submitted to the Board for approval.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Martin Zimmerman at 213.974.1326 or mzimmerman@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:EFS
MKZ:FC:ib

c: Sheriff
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Beaches and Harbors
Fire
Internal Services
Military and Veterans Affairs
Museum of Art
Music Center
Natural History Museum
Parks and Recreation
Public Health
Public Works
Regional Planning
County Commission on Local Governmental Services
Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation



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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

August 27, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

Board of Supervisors
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Fifth District

FILM PERMITS AND INCREASED FILM PERMIT FEES (ITEM NO. 5, AGENDA OF JUNE 25, 2012)

On July 24, 2012, your Board adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to report back on the impact, if any, on the increase in the film permit fees instituted by the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) in August, 2010 to the film industry. Specifically, your Board was interested in knowing what service enhancements/program improvements have been made to the permit approval process as a result of the fee increase and whether said increase has led to a decrease in permit applications.

This report is in response to the aforementioned motion.

Background

On August 24, 2010, your Board adopted an ordinance by the District amending the County Fire Code to implement a new permit requirement and permit fees for multiple location filming and commercial still photography productions, as well as to increase current permit fees related to motion picture, television, commercials, and related productions. The purpose of this ordinance was to establish new and increased fees to be charged by the District to reflect the operating costs incurred for the reviewing, inspections and processing of permits related to motion picture and television industry productions by the District's Public Safety and Film Unit (PSFU). The PSFU currently has a staff of seven and is comprised of: a Senior Typist Clerk, a Student Worker, four Fire Inspectors and a Fire Captain whose salaries are funded through the collection of the permit fees.

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Program Enhancements

Since the adoption of the new and increased fees, the District has been able to implement program enhancements that have resulted in the streamlining of the permit approval process from 24 hours to same-day service for all but the most complex of film permit requests. The most notable of these enhancements has been the creation of the Field Inspection Program (FIP) and providing customers with the ability to pay the applicable fees at multiple locations or online.

The FIP provides a cost-effective alternative to the film industry when maintaining fire safety awareness at low-hazard film productions. Participation in the FIP allows film companies the option to self-manage their safety risk without the need for a PSFU Film Safety Advisor (FSA). Through the FIP, productions with a minimal degree of risk to the public and/or the environment are allowed to have a producer or location manager maintain compliance with applicable fire safety codes during shooting. This compliance is periodically monitored by PSFU fire inspectors as they provide fire safety inspections at given locations. By providing the option of using a self-inspection program on designated productions instead of an FSA - whose rate is \$40.00 per hour for a four hour minimum and increases to time and a half after eight hours and to double time after twelve hours - the District estimates an annual savings to the film industry in the amount \$185,120 by way of a 17.5 percent reduction in FSA assignments.

A second program improvement resulting from the new and increased fees is the establishment of multiple locations for the payment of the film fees. The film industry now has the added convenience of paying the applicable fees at one of the five locations: the District's Financial Management Division located in Commerce, the PSFU headquarters in Sylmar, the Santa Clarita Film Office, the Film LA headquarters in Los Angeles, and the Malibu Film Office. Prior to the fee increase, the Commerce office was the only location where fees could be paid. Furthermore, on June 1, 2011, the PSFU began accepting online credit card payments. To date, over 700 individuals have utilized this option.

In addition to the aforementioned program enhancements, the District is also in the process of developing a database tracking system that will allow for the more efficient processing of permit requests originating from various cities. The system will also allow management to create statistical reports in order to better manage workload issues. The tracking system is expected to become operational during the fall of 2012.

Fire Permit Fees Issued

According to the District, the number of permits issued has steadily increased since the implementation of the new permit fees in August 2010. In calendar year 2010, there were 4,084 permits issued. In 2011, there were a total of 4,470 permits issued. In 2012, there have been 2,389 permits issued thus far with an estimated total of 4,778 to be issued by year's end. While there may be a variety of factors behind the increasing number of permits issued, it appears that the program enhancements described above may be affecting this emerging trend. Furthermore, the fees have created the desired objectives of providing revenue offset for the District and improved service delivery for the public.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may contact Ms. Georgia Mattera, Public Safety, at (213) 893-2374.

WTF:GM:SW
DC:cc

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Fire